

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device [(1)] comprising an elastic, elongated carrier element, as well as an elongated wiper blade [(2)] of a flexible material, which can be placed in abutment with a windscreen to be wiped, which wiper blade [(2)] includes opposing longitudinal grooves [(3)] on its longitudinal sides, in which grooves spaced-apart longitudinal strips of said carrier element are disposed, wherein neighbouring ends of said longitudinal strips [(4)] are interconnected by a respective connecting piece [(6)], which windscreen wiper device [(1)] comprises a connecting device [(7)] for an oscillating wiper arm [(8)], wherein said oscillating arm is pivotally connected to said connecting device [(7)] about a pivot axis near one end, ~~characterized in that~~ said connecting device [(7)] comprises engaging members [(9)] being welded to longitudinal sides [(10)] of said longitudinal strips [(4)] that face away from each other in such a manner as to withstand shearing forces in a direction along said longitudinal strips, [(4)] said connecting device and said engaging members being constructed as one piece of thermoplastic material and said longitudinal strips having an outer thermoplastic skin welded to said connecting device.

2. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said engaging members [(9)] are welded to said longitudinal sides [(10)] through an ultrasonic welding operation.

3. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting device [(7)] and said engaging members (9) ~~are made in one piece~~ engage around said longitudinal strips.

4. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein the end of the oscillating wiper arm [(8)] includes two at least substantially cylindrical protrusions[(11)], which form bearing surfaces, at the location of the pivot [[pin]]axis, which protrusions extend in lateral direction with respect to the oscillating wiper arm[(8)].

5. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein the end of the oscillating wiper arm [(8)] has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section, said connecting device [(7)] being partially positioned within said end of the oscillating arm[(8)], and wherein the end of the oscillating arm [(8)] is provided, at the location of the pivot axis, with a shaft extending between the legs of the U-shaped cross-section, said shaft pivotally engaging in said connecting device[(7)].

6. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 4, wherein said protrusions ~~((11))~~~~said shaft~~ can be pivotally mounted in [(a)] correspondingly shaped recesseses~~((12))~~ in the connecting device[(7)].

7. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 6, wherein said protrusions ~~((11))~~~~said shaft~~ can be snapped into said recesseses~~((12))~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 6, wherein said protrusions ~~((11))~~~~said shaft~~ are~~are~~ dimensioned such that they~~they~~ can be passed through [(an)] insertion openingses~~((13))~~ of the recesseses~~((12))~~ from an at least substantially perpendicular position of the oscillating arm [(8)] with respect to the wiper blade[(2)], and be locked in position in said recesseses~~((12))~~ from an at least substantially parallel position of the oscillating wiper arm [(8)] with respect to the wiper blade[(2)].

9. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting pieces [(6)] are clamping members, which form separate constructional elements.

10. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 9, wherein said connecting pieces [(6)] are form-locked or force-locked to the adjacent ends of said longitudinal strips [(4)].

11. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting pieces [(6)] are in one piece with said longitudinal strips [(4)].

12. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein at least said longitudinal strips [(4)] are made of spring band material.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a windscreen wiper device, wherein opposing longitudinal grooves [(3)] are formed in [(the)] longitudinal sides of [(the)] an elongated wiper blade [(2)] of a flexible material, which can be placed in abutment with a windscreen to be wiped, in which grooves longitudinal strips [(4)] of a carrier element are subsequently fitted in spaced-apart relationship, wherein neighbouring ends of said longitudinal strips [(4)] are interconnected by a respective connecting piece [(6)], wherein an oscillating arm [(8)] is pivotally connected to a connecting device [(7)] of the windscreen wiper device [(1)] about a pivot axis near one end thereof, ~~characterized in that~~ said connecting device [(7)] is fitted with engaging members [(9)], which are welded to longitudinal sides [(10)] of said longitudinal strips [(4)] that face away from each other in such a manner as to withstand shearing forces in a direction along said longitudinal strips [(4)], further including constructing said engaging members as one piece of thermoplastic material and providing said longitudinal strips with a thermoplastic skin.

14(New). The method of claim 13 further including welding the thermoplastic material of the engaging members to the thermoplastic skin on the longitudinal strips.